

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims, AMEND claims, and ADD new claims, in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A driving circuit for a flat display device, comprising:  
a drive circuit applying a first voltage to a first electrode of a capacitive load serving as a display element and applying a second voltage having a phase opposite to the first voltage to the first electrode of the capacitive load, so as to make the display element emit light;  
~~comprising:~~

a power supply circuit for generating the first voltage and the second voltage to be applied to the capacitive load using an externally supplied power supply;

a capacitor connected between said first and second signal lines; and

a ramp waveform generation circuit connected to an interconnection point between a first signal line supplying the first voltage and a second signal line supplying the second voltage generated by said power supply circuit and said capacitor so as to generate a ramp waveform to be applied to the capacitive load.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~device~~ driving circuit according to claim 1, wherein said ramp waveform generation circuit comprises a switching circuit and a resistor, connected to the ground.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~device~~ driving circuit according to claim 2, wherein said ramp waveform generation circuit further comprises a conversion circuit for converting a supplied control signal for said switching circuit to a drive level which allows said switching circuit to operate.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~device~~ driving circuit according to claim 2, wherein said ramp waveform generation circuit comprises a potential adjusting circuit for adjusting a final potential of the output ramp waveform.

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5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device driving circuit according to claim 2, wherein said ramp waveform generation circuit comprises a ramp adjusting circuit for adjusting a ramp of the output ramp waveform.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device driving circuit according to claim 5, wherein said ramp adjusting circuit comprises a resistor inserted into a gate-charge loop.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device driving circuit according to claim 1, wherein the ramp waveform to be applied to the capacitive load changes from a positive potential to a negative potential.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device driving circuit according to claim 1, wherein the flat display device is an AC-driven plasma display device.

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9. (ORIGINAL) A driving circuit for a flat display device, applying a first voltage to a first electrode of a capacitive load serving as a display element and applying a second voltage having a phase opposite to the first voltage to the first electrode of the capacitive load, so as to make the display element emit light comprising:

first and second switching circuits connected in series between the ground and an externally supplied power supply;

a capacitor having one terminal connected to an interconnection node between said first and second switching circuits;

a third switching circuit connected between the ground and the other terminal of said capacitor; and

a fourth switching circuit and a first resistor, connected in series between the ground and the interconnection node between said first and second switching circuits.

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10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device driving circuit according to claim 9, further comprising a Zener diode having one terminal connected to the interconnection node between said first and second switching circuits, and

said fourth switching circuit and said first resistor are connected in series between the ground and the other terminal of said Zener diode.

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11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device driving circuit according to claim 9,  
further comprising a driver circuit for converting a supplied control signal to a drive level which  
allows said fourth switching circuit to operate and outputting the control signal to said fourth  
switching circuit.

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12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device driving circuit according to claim 11,  
further comprising a second resistor connected in series between an output terminal of said  
driver circuit and a control signal input terminal of said fourth switching circuit.

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13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device driving circuit according to claim 9,  
wherein the flat display device is an AC-driven plasma display device.

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14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device driving circuit according to claim 1,  
wherein said ramp waveform changes in its voltage with time elapsing at a constant rate in  
relation to the time elapse.

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15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The device driving circuit according to claim 1,  
wherein said ramp waveform changes in its voltage with time elapsing at a rate that varies with  
time elapsing.

16. (CANCELED)